

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of December 8, 2003, Applicants submitted a response (mailed April 6, 2004) having amendments to the claims. The current supplemental amendment assumes that the prior claim amendments have been entered and proceeds from the prior amendments. In this supplemental amendment, claims 1-3, 6-8, 10, 13, 15, 21, 22, 26, 29, and 31 have been amended. Claims 1-24 and 26-31 will be pending in this application.

Amended claim 2 recites a method for producing a circuit description of a design, the method comprising:

- a) from the design, selecting a candidate sub-network that includes multiple circuit elements;
- b) generating a parameter based on a set of output functions performed by the selected candidate sub-network;
- c) using the parameter to retrieve a replacement sub-network from a storage structure that stores replacement sub-networks, wherein the replacement sub-network comprises multiple circuit elements, at least one circuit element being independently selectable;
- d) replacing the selected candidate sub-network with the replacement sub-network in the design; and
- e) iteratively performing the selecting, generating, using, and replacing, wherein during at least one iteration, a candidate sub-network selected from the design comprises at least one but not all circuit elements of a replacement sub-network in the design.

As such, Claim 2 now includes the “independently selectable” and the “iteratively performing” limitations shown above. Although the method of claim 2 allows for the selection of

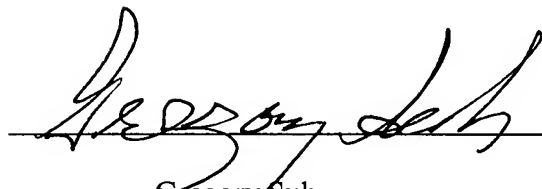
a candidate sub-network comprising at least one but not all circuit elements of a replacement sub-network in the design, it should be noted that this limitation does not indicate that all selected candidate sub-networks must comprise at least one circuit element of a replacement sub-network in the design. The "independently selectable" and "iteratively performing" limitations have also been added to independent claims 1, 22, and 26.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the current amendments place the application in better condition for allowance and that no new matter has been added. The Applicant respectfully requests examination at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 7/2/04



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